

From: [Epp, Timothy](#)
To: [Career Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Deputy Regional Counsels](#); [Regional Counsels](#); [Regional FOIA Officers](#); [FOIA-Coordinators-Officers-Alternates-and-Supervisors](#); [EPA FOIA Community](#)
Cc: [Chaudhary, Dimple](#); [Hope, Brian](#); [Joffe, Brian](#); [QGC NFO](#); [Vendinello, Lynn](#); [Gross, Louann](#); [Wachter, Eric](#); [Weaver, Susannah](#)
Subject: June 2022 EPA FOIA Backlog Report
Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 11:03:06 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Colleagues,

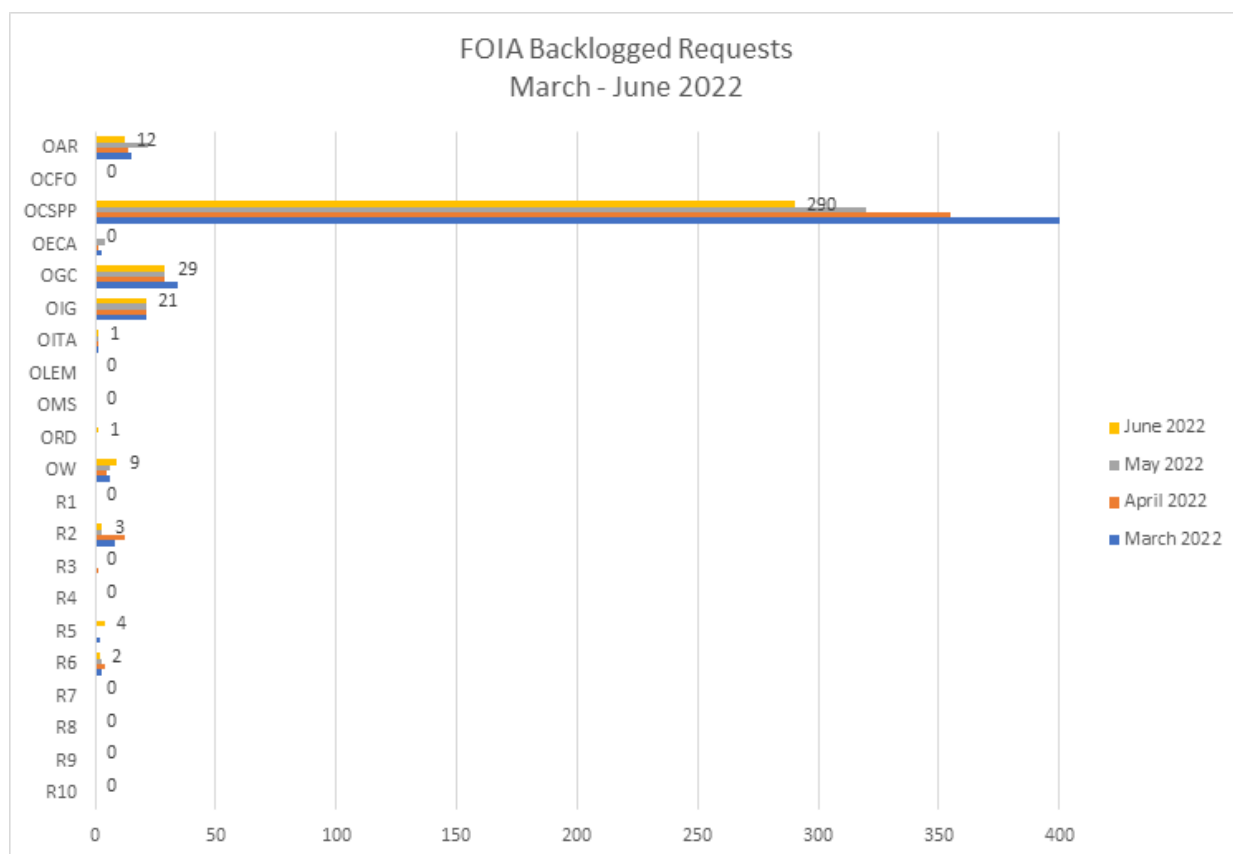
The Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went down in June. This is the third month of backlog reduction in a row this fiscal year. The reduction in June built upon the prior two months, and the backlog has finally dropped lower than it was at the beginning of the fiscal year. The end of June backlog was 1,018, which is 3.6% lower than the backlog at the beginning of the fiscal year. **Substantial further reductions are needed to achieve the Agency's target at the end of the fiscal year.**

Congratulations to OCSPP for three consecutive months of significant backlog reduction in April, May and June of 114, or more than 28% as compared to three months ago! OAR also reduced its backlog by 10 in June, cutting its backlog by 45%.

The following offices achieved a zero backlog at the end of April: OCFO, OEECA, OLEM, OMS and Regions 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9, and 10. The following additional offices also maintained very low backlog numbers: Regions 2, 5 and 6, OITA and ORD. Congratulations to Region 2 for achieving a very low backlog level for the first time. Maintaining a zero backlog and very low backlog numbers is essential for the Agency to achieve its overall commitment to transparency and the objective to eliminate the FOIA backlog.

End of June Overdue FOIA Data

The chart below shows the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: June, May, April, and March, 2022. The Office of the Administrator's backlog increased to 646 at the end of June from 633 at the end of May, the fourth consecutive increase.



For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances extensions beyond 10 days or other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The March data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on April 1, 2022; the April data on May 4; the May data on June 1; and the June data on July 1. If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at epp.timothy@epa.gov or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

Timothy R. Epp

Associate General Counsel | [National FOIA Office](#)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Office of General Counsel

1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (MC 2310A)

Washington, D.C. 20460 | WJCN 7309B

Phone (202) 564-2830 | epp.timothy@epa.gov



National FOIA Office
EPA Office of General Counsel